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## Sinteni's Puerto-Rico Plants.

[Translation.]

The distribution of the first installment of plants collected by T. Sinteni at Puerto-Rico has just taken place. The determinations have been made by the undersigned in company with several monographers. As but a few sets are yet to be disposed of (at 30 marks per hundred) intending purchasers must send in their names speedily. The species lacking in this issue will be supplied (possibly completely) from shortly to be expected collections.

*Schöneberg bei Berlin, Grünewald.*

DR. IGN. URBAN.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. H. F. HANCE, British Consul at Amoy, China, died on June 22. He has been an earnest student of the plants of the East, having described a large number of new species, mostly in English periodicals.

MR. ROMYN HITCHCOCK, editor of the *American Microscopical Journal*, has sailed for Osaka, Japan, which will be his address for some time to come. The business management of the *Journal* is placed in the hands of Rufus W. Deering, of Washington, D. C.

A NEW monthly botanical journal, to bear the name *Malpighia*, will soon be started at Messina, Italy, to be edited by Professors Borzi, Penzig, and Pirota. It will contain original articles, bibliography, critiques, notes and queries. The subscription is placed at twenty-five francs per annum.

PROFESSOR F. L. HARVEY, of the Arkansas Industrial University, has accepted the position of professor of natural history in the State College, Orono, Me., made vacant by the resignation of Professor C. H. Fernald, who takes the chair of zoology in the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

A CRITICAL SYNOPSIS of the North American species of the genus *Carex* by Prof. L. H. Bailey, Jr., will shortly appear in the proceedings of the American Academy. Contrary to the usual custom of American botanists the territory covered includes Greenland, Mexico and Central America, *i. e.*, all of North America. Prof. Bailey has been engaged upon the work for three years, and the results of his study will be heartily welcomed.

THE BUFFALO MEETING of the Society for the promotion of Agricultural Science listened to the following papers pertaining to botany: Parasitic fungi as affecting plant distribution, by W. J. Beal, Ph. D.; On some diseases of cultivated plants, by W. G. Farlow, M. D.; The sources of nitrogen of plants, by R. C. Kedzie, M. D.; Vitality and germination of fruit tree seeds, and Comparative growth of young timber trees, by W. R. Lazenby, M. Sc.; Hybridity in nature and its effects, by T. V. Munson, M. Sc.; A study in agricultural botany, by E. L. Sturtevant, M. D.; The agricultural grasses of Arizona, and The mildews of the grape, by F. L. Scribner, B. Sc.

A PLANT of *Yucca filamentosa* of remarkable size and habit bloomed last year in the Botanic Garden at Adelaide, South Australia, and is figured and described by Dr. Schomburgk, the director, in his last report. It is about twenty-five years old, is 18 feet high and 7 feet 4 four in circumference one foot above the ground. It bloomed for the first time in 1873, producing an upright flower-stalk. When this was cut away, a number of short branches were produced, forming a globular head of foliage. Last year when it bloomed for the second time, it threw out eight flower-stalks, three feet long and bearing three hundred flowers each, but instead of being upright, they were fully pendulous. It is said to have been a magnificent sight, as can well be imagined.

THE COMMITTEE of the A. A. A. S. for securing more favorable ruling regarding the transmission through the mails of herbarium specimens with written labels reported that much attention had been given toward securing the desired object but no result had been reached. The committee were met with the objection that it was asking legislation for

too small a class to be worth while. To overcome this obstacle the name of the committee is now changed by the substitution of the words "natural history specimens" for "botanical specimens," and the committee is strengthened by adding Prof. S. F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution as Chairman. The other members are Profs. L. F. Ward, J. W. Chickering, Jr., and Dr. Geo. Vasey. The committee on the health and diseases of plants reported that it had accomplished the chief objects in view and was discontinued.

REFERENCE WAS MADE in the May issue to the condition of the botanical part of the Department of Agriculture, and the efforts to secure a suitable appropriation for the present year. For awhile after that was written the prospect was gloomy, and fears were entertained that recent advancement might be lost if appropriations were cut off. At this juncture the committee of the American Association on the health and diseases of plants addressed a memorial to Congress setting forth the desirability of investigations upon the fungous foes of the cultivator and the necessity for an appropriation of fully \$5,000 with which to carry on the work. This was effectively presented by Prof. Riley, to whose exertions and those of Commissioner Colman the credit of finally securing the favorable action of Congress is largely due. The result has been, that the work on the diseases of plants has been separated from the botanical part of the Department, now raised to the dignity of a Division, and has been placed in full charge of Mr. Scribner, who reports directly to the Commissioner. This leaves the position of assistant botanist vacant. An appropriation of \$5,000 was obtained, of which \$840 goes to the Botanical Division to be expended chiefly in studying the agricultural grasses of the West, and the balance, \$4,160, is to be used for the investigation of the diseases of plants, and for the salaries of those employed. Although this is much less than originally contemplated, yet it is an excellent beginning.

LATHRÆA SQUAMARIA, a common Orobanch of Europe, has been studied by Mr. George Massee and described, with a plate, in the September *Journal of Botany*. It has for a long time been considered a true parasite upon the roots of elm, ash, hazel, and beech. After germination, a full season is devoted to the development of vegetative organs and the accumulation of reserve material. The second year's work is confined to the production of reproductive parts. After fully describing the structure of the haustoria, leaves, etc., and also the results of chemical tests, the author concludes: "Although *Lathræa* has up to the present been described as a parasite, which to a certain extent is correct, more especially while young, yet we consider it much more of a Saprophyte than a parasite, scale-leaves never being absent; whereas the discs, upon which its parasitism depends, are, as the plant becomes old, frequently very rare, or apparently altogether absent, while in other instances roots and discs are very numerous on old plants; their presence or absence depends entirely on the position in which the plant finds itself; if small living roots of a suitable host-plant are present they are developed, whereas, if the plant has migrated to a locality from which they are absent, it possesses the power of supporting itself by means of its scale-leaves." It may be interesting to mention that the roots are sometimes covered with the mycelium of a fungus, such as described by Kamienski as about the roots of *Monotropa*, but not with sufficient constancy to admit of the theory of symbiosis.